

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for producing a hydrophobically finished aramid fabric, comprising at least the steps
  - a) providing an aramid yarn,
  - b) applying a water-repellent agent to the aramid yarn,
  - c) drying the aramid yarn resulting from step b),
  - d) forming a fabric from the aramid yarn resulting from step c), and
  - e) heat treating the fabric.
2. Method according to Claim 1, wherein in step a), the aramid yarn is provided by a spinning process after leaving a wash bath.
3. Method according to Claim 1, wherein the aramid yarn is produced from poly(p-phenylene terephthalamide).
4. Method according to Claim 1, wherein in step b), the water-repellent agent is an agent comprising fluorine and carbon atoms.
5. Method according to Claim 4, wherein in step b), the water-repellent agent is an agent comprising a mixture of fluoroacrylate polymers.
6. Method according to Claim 5, wherein the water-repellent agent contains an antistatic agent.
7. Method according to Claim 5, wherein the water-repellent agent contains a lubricant.
8. Method according to Claim 1, wherein in step b), the water-repellent agent is applied to the aramid yarn as an aqueous emulsion.
9. Method according to Claim 8, wherein in step b), the water-repellent agent is present in the aqueous emulsion in a concentration in the range of 20 – 300 g/l.
10. Method according to Claim 8, wherein in step b), the application of the water-repellent agent comprises passing the aramid yarn over a roller immersed in a bath containing the aqueous emulsion of the water-repellent agent.
11. Method according to Claim 10, wherein in step b), the aqueous emulsion has a temperature in the range of 15 - 35°C.
12. Method according to Claim 1, wherein in step c), the aramid yarn resulting from step b) is dried at a temperature in the range of 130 - 210°C.

